

REMARKS

Claims 1-2, 4, 7-12, 17-19, and 22-25 were pending in the present Application. Claims 13-16 were previously withdrawn as a result of an earlier restriction requirement.

Filed concurrently herewith is a declaration filed under 37 USC § 1.131 swearing behind the filing and issuance dates of U.S. Pat. Pub. No. 2003/0064018 to Sampson et al.

Reconsideration and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-2, 4, 7-12, 17-19, and 22-25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as allegedly unpatentable by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0064018 to Sampson et al. (hereinafter "Sampson"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

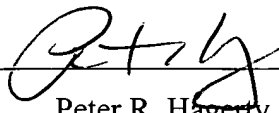
Sampson was filed on August 2, 2001. Applicants conceived and reduced to practice its invention sometime prior to August 2, 2001. Filed concurrently herewith is a Declaration submitted under 37 USC § 1.131 declaring and stating that the invention was conceived of in the United States and reduced to practice in the United States sometime prior to August 2, 2001. Evidence supporting conception and reduction to practice is provided with the Declaration.

Accordingly, Applicants hereby request withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0064018 to Sampson et al.

It is believed that the foregoing remarks and Declaration filed concurrently herewith fully comply with the Office Action and that the claims herein should now be allowable to Applicants. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance is requested.

If there are any additional charges with respect to this Amendment or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 06-1130 maintained by Applicant's attorneys.

Respectfully submitted,
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